BENGALURU, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 17 | Humidity 26% Mostly cloudy Sensex 83,734 | Nifty 25,819 | Gold 1,55,800 | Silver 2,44,643 | Dollar 90.72 | Euro 107.41 | GBP 122.91

CLASS ACT

Portable cabin–based smart classroom in migrant informal settlement in South Bengaluru to address critical early childhood needs

PAGE 5

SUPER SHOW

India keeps Netherlands firmly in its grip; Pakistan crush Namibia to race into Super 8; SA wrap up group stage with all-win record

PAGE 9

1,009 fatal accidents on National and State highways across state in January; cases involving speeding minors behind wheels and multiple fatalities have put police in crackdown mode — parents advised to monitor their children

THE YOUNG AND THE RECKLESS

1,024 people lost their lives in accidents in Jan, of which 356 occurred on National Highways

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Speeding has turned out to be the major cause of accidents reported on national and state highways every month of which 35% were fatal. In January alone, the state recorded 1,009 fatal accident cases, averaging 33 deadly crashes every day. Two recent fatal crashes involving minors within a week have prompted the Bengaluru Police to intensify their crackdown on underage driving.

The two incidents claimed 12 young lives. In one case, a car heading from Nelamangala towards Bengaluru on February 14 reportedly went out of control as it was ascending a flyover.

The vehicle first rammed into the road divider, veered into the opposite lane, overturned multiple times and then crashed head-on into a KSRTC bus bound for Tumakuru. The collision killed five youngsters on the spot. According to police officials, preliminary investigations suggest that speeding may have caused the driver to lose control of the car.

Just a day before this, seven persons, including a 26-year-old motorcyclist and six students of RV College of Engineering, died in a multi-vehicle crash near Hoskote around 3.30 am. Police said a speeding SUV first hit a bike, killing the rider instantly, then rammed a truck, triggering a pile-up. All six occupants of the SUV died on the spot.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

"Good roads are designed to promote safe and comfortable travel, but many motorists wrongly perceive them as a chance to drive at high speeds, leading to more accidents

—MN Sreehari, traffic expert

Dry days ahead

Of 448 localities in water scarcity belt, West Zone worst hit with 146 critical points, reveals BWSSB data

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West Bengaluru has the highest number of water stress pockets in the city, with 146 areas identified as critical ahead of summer. According to data released by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, a total of 448 localities across Bengaluru have been mapped as vulnerable to potential water shortages, with the West Zone topping the list. The North Zone follows with 122 critical areas, while the East Zone accounts for 59.

The remaining localities are spread across other zones, taking the overall count to 448. Officials say the identification was based on population density, past summer distress patterns and groundwater depletion trends.

With nearly one third of the city's vulnerable pockets concentrated in the West, BWSSB has rolled out a summer preparedness plan that could cost up to Rs 10.14 crore to ensure uninterrupted supply.

A BWSSB official said, "The action plan includes targeted fund allocation across zones. The North Zone has been earmarked Rs 3.35 crore, the West Zone Rs 3.14 crore

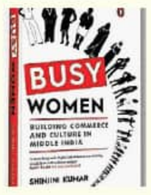
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Tales in tunes

Bhoomija, in collaboration with the Prestige Centre for Performing Arts (PCPA), will present The Storied Song, a concert that brings together music and narrative in an intimate and reflective format.
Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte;
When: March 1, 6.30 pm

02 Through their lens



Atta Galatta is hosting the launch of 'Busy Women' by Shinjini Kumar, an insightful and engaging exploration of contemporary India beyond its metropolitan centres, based on extensive travel across thirty cities and conversations with over 300 women.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;
When: February 21, 6.30 pm

03 Heart to heart

St Joseph's University, Bengaluru, is hosting the 8th edition of Open Heart, inspiring students, faculty, and guests through stories and wisdom of eminent personalities. This year's edition features acclaimed South Indian actress Kalyani Priyadarshan.
Where: St Joseph's University Auditorium, Shanti Nagar;
When: February 19, 4.30 pm

04 Feeling crafty?

An exhibition jointly organised by Grand Flea Market and Indian Artisans Bazaar showcases Indian traditional and modern handicrafts, home décor items, and traditional attire from various states — all under one roof.
Where: Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram;
When: Until March 1

05 Symphony of ideas

Alliance University will host the 2026 edition of the Alliance Literary Festival, ALF, and Alliance ONE, bringing together leading voices from cinema, public life, journalism, law and performance.
Where: Alliance University, Alliance School of Liberal Arts, Anekal;
When: Feb 19 to 21, 9 am to 9.30 pm

Group stresses need to prioritise child care in Budget

Platform working towards protection of child rights, in letter to Chief Minister, calls for allocation of funds for child welfare in State Budget, highlights various areas requiring focus

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FILE PHOTO

Importance of quality education and amenities at all govt schools has also been emphasised

The Children's Cabinet of Sparsha Trust has sent its recommendations to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah who is set to present the State Budget on March 6. The Children's Cabinet made the recommendations for the welfare of children across the state and appealed to the Chief Minister to allocate sufficient funds in the Budget for the education and well-being of children. It has emphasised on the importance of ensuring quality education by providing basic infrastructure and amenities at all government schools in the state.

The Children's Cabinet, a platform established for the protection of child rights, wants the government to improve the quality of education at government schools by appointing teachers and ensuring children who left school resume studies. "The menace of child labour should be banned in the state. The government has to take measures to identify child labourers and provide rehabilitation for such children and also provide financial assistance to their families. We want the government to take measures to stop corporal punishment at schools. We want the chief minister to allocate funds to make schools in rural areas children friendly. All the children should have a medical checkup on a regular basis. Funds should be allocated to address malnourishment among children in rural areas," the letter read.

The Children's Cabinet also appealed to the Chief Minister to allocate funds to organise awareness programmes to prevent teenage pregnancies in the state. "We want the Chief Minister to allocate funds for organising ward meetings for children and ensure children participate in meetings exclusively organised at panchayat level. The government has to take measures to create awareness among children on the adverse impact of digital addiction. We want the Chief Minister to allocate funds for organising counselling for children at schools by appointing counselors," the letter read.

Authorities must consider incorporating suggestions put forward by children as empowering young voices would strengthen democratic values while ensuring policies better address real needs of future generations, says child rights activist

Nagasimha G Rao, child rights activist, said the recommendations provided by children for the 2026-27 Karnataka State Budget form a vital part of their right to participation. He noted that children are actively observing the government and thoughtfully discussing their own issues and concerns. "This is an important matter that the government must take note of. The authorities should seriously consider and incorporate the suggestions put forward by children in a meaningful way," he said. He highlighted that empowering young voices in the budgeting process not only strengthens democratic values but also ensures that policies better address the real needs of future generations. "It is encouraging to see children engaging so proactively in governance, this deserves genuine recognition and action from policymakers," said Rao.

KSRTC issues stern rules ahead of strike

With a statewide strike planned by road transport bodies, the Managing Director of KSRTC has issued a stern notice enforcing a 'No Work, No Pay' policy. Employees have been barred from taking leave on these days except in cases of extreme emergency, with measures put in place to ensure uninterrupted services for commuters.

Following the thread, depot managers and depots have been alerted and issued guidance to ensure uninterrupted work on these days. The directive also states that a unit-wise list of those who do not turn up to work will be created, and strict disciplinary action will be taken against the employees. However, commuters are requested to keep alternative measures available.

Should negotiations fail, transport employees have announced that a complete bus shutdown across Karnataka will begin on February 20. The strike objectives include Rs 1,785 crores of arrears pending over a period of 38 months and a wage revision. **–BMB**

Families await delayed sponsorship

More than 26,000 vulnerable children across Karnataka, including over 1,400 in Bengaluru Urban and Rural, have not received their monthly sponsorship allowance for the past seven months, leaving families struggling to manage food, education and basic care. The affected children include orphans, children of prisoners, those suffering from leprosy, and youngsters who lost a parent to COVID-19 and are now being raised by a single parent.Under the sponsorship scheme, each child is entitled to Rs 4,000 per month, directly credited to bank accounts to support education, nutrition and tuition expenses. With payments pending since July 2025, dues have mounted to nearly Rs 73.73 crore statewide. Dharwad tops the list with 2,653 eligible children awaiting funds, followed by Koppal with 2,220 and several other districts reporting over 1,000 beneficiaries each. **–BMB**

Gold, silver prices drop amid market pressure

After weeks of steep prices, there was some relief for jewellery buyers in Bengaluru as gold and silver rates saw a sharp correction. Silver prices in the city dropped by Rs 8,000 per kg, bringing the rate down to around Rs 2.60 lakh. Gold, too, witnessed a dip, with 10 grams of 24-carat gold falling by over Rs 2,200 to hover around Rs 1.54 lakh, while 22-carat jewellery gold slipped to nearly Rs 1.41 lakh. Eighteen-carat gold also recorded a notable fall. The softening of rates has raised hopes among customers that prices may ease further in the coming days.

The decline follows a drop in international markets, where gold prices fell by over 1 per cent and silver also slipped. Analysts attribute the fall to expectations of a possible interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve, which has shifted global investment trends and reduced demand for precious metals. Interestingly, this comes even as gold imports in January surged sharply. **–BMB**

Police act against reckless two-wheeler riders

Bengaluru Traffic East Division police cracked down on reckless two-wheeler stunts in two separate incidents on Panathur and Spice Garden Road. Between February 9 and 14, officers seized three motorcycles and registered FIRs to enforce road safety.

The riders, caught performing wheelies and other dangerous stunts on major city roads, were immediately detained and taken into custody.

In the drive conducted by the Bengaluru City Police, close to 54 vulnerable road stretches were identified and strict action is being taken against miscreants. The police have initiated the practice based on recent events which have claimed the lives of many youth. Jurisdictional officers have been instructed to intensify action against erring youth, many of whom are underage and lack driving licences.

Addressing the press on Tuesday, Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said that action will be taken against minors found driving or riding vehicles recklessly, and the parents of these minors will be facing legal consequences. Police will act promptly against traffic violators engaging in overspeeding, stunts, and other reckless behaviour to prevent further fatalities in the city. **BMB**

CRIME FILES

68 arrested in crackdown on mule account racket

The Karnataka Cyber Command conducted a statewide special drive against mule accounts and mule herders involved in cyber frauds, with significant progress reported in its latest update.

The operation, which has been underway since last week, has led to the arrest of 68 key accused who were arrested between December 2025 and February 2026. A total of 8,788 NCRP complaints were linked to these accounts, involving Rs 85.05 crore in fraudulent transactions, of which Rs 13.43 crore has been successfully put on hold.

Investigations revealed that mule herders systematically collected personal documents from unsuspecting individuals and opened multiple bank accounts, including in the names of their relatives. These accounts were operated in an organised, business-like manner and sold to cybercriminals for carrying out online frauds.

According to officials, during the operation so far, 60 cases have been registered, and 869 mule accounts have been identified.

During the raids, police seized 35 ATM cards, 37 passbooks, 80 mobile phones, 28 cheque books, 22 SIM cards, and 50 other incriminating items. Further investigation is underway. **BMB**

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Major drug bust at KIA: NCB seizes 4.7 kg of cocaine

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Bengaluru Zonal Unit, seized 4.776 kg of cocaine valued at Rs 23.88 crore at Kempegowda International Airport in the early hours of February 17, 2026.

Acting on specific intelligence, NCB officials intercepted a Brazilian national who had travelled from São Paulo to Doha, Qatar, before arriving in Bengaluru. Upon thorough examination of his checked-in baggage, officers discovered four ladies' handbags that had been ingeniously modified with false walls and concealed bottom compartments.

Inside these hidden cavities, officials found multiple pieces of clothing fabric that were chemically infused with cocaine. The contraband was carefully extracted and seized under due procedure. The accused has been detained for detailed interrogation to trace the source, intended recipients, and the broader network behind the trafficking attempt. NCB officials have urged citizens to share information regarding narcotics trafficking through the MANAS – National Narcotics Helpline at 1933. **BMB**

Man duped in online rental scam

A city-based doctor has filed a complaint with the police alleging that he was cheated of Rs 9,049 in an online house rental scam.

According to the complaint, Dr Soumma, a resident of Vasanth Nagar, was searching for a rental house on an online platform when he was contacted by a person identifying himself as Dinesh Kumar.

The caller claimed to be the owner of a flat at Brigade Residency in Rajajinagar and asked the complainant to transfer Rs 2,000 to obtain a visitor's pass to view the property.

Subsequently, another person, introducing himself as Raman Nayak, called from the same mobile number and persuaded the complainant to pay an additional Rs 7,049 as an initial amount, assuring him that Rs 7,000 would be refunded after the house visit.

Following their instructions, the complainant also shared copies of his documents to another mobile number.

However, upon visiting the given address, the security guard informed him that no such owner or arrangement existed and that it was a fraud. Realising he had been cheated, Dr Soumma lodged a police complaint at the High Ground Police Station seeking legal action against the accused. **BMB**

Man killed as speeding vehicle rams into bike

A 20-year-old engineering student lost his life in a road accident on his birthday while returning home after celebrating with friends. The incident occurred within the jurisdiction of the Chikkabanavara Traffic Police Station on Tuesday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Pawan Kumar, a resident of Thotadaguddada village in Bengaluru North. On Tuesday, he had celebrated his birthday with friends and was heading home when the accident took place.

According to police, around 5.30 pm, Kumar was riding his motorcycle from the Kakolu Dairy Farm towards IIHR when a speeding goods vehicle coming from the opposite direction rammed into his bike. The impact left him with severe head and multiple body injuries, rendering him unconscious on the spot.

He was rushed to Saptagiri Hospital by ambulance, but doctors declared him dead. The driver abandoned the vehicle and fled. Police have registered a case and launched a search for the absconding driver. Preliminary investigations point to rash and negligent driving as the cause of the accident. **BMB**

Husband booked for stabbing wife to death

A 55-year-old woman was allegedly hacked to death by her husband while she was asleep at their residence in Moodalapalya late on Tuesday night. The incident is said to have been prompted by suspicions of an alleged illicit relationship.

The deceased has been identified as Devi alias Devamma (55), a sweeper working at Majestic Railway Station, and a resident of Sanjeevini Nagar. The accused is her husband, Kumar (66), a mason by profession. According to the complaint filed by their son, Manjunath K (38), frequent quarrels had erupted between his parents over an alleged illicit relationship. On the night of February 17, between 11.30 pm and 12.25 am, Kumar allegedly attacked Devi with a machete inside the bedroom of their house.

Based on the complaint, police are probing the exact motive and sequence of events leading to the murder. The Govindaraja Nagar Police have registered a case in connection with the incident. **BMB**

Retired ISRO employee strangles wife before attempting to take own life

A 65-year-old retired employee of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) allegedly strangled his wife to death before the accused tried to attempt sucicde at their residence in Avalahalli Police Station limits on Tuesday morning.

According to the police, the incident came to light around 11 am after police officials received information about a suspected murder at Virtuso Apartment in the Bommanahalli area. The accused, identified as Nagehleshwar Rao, is said to have strangled his wife, Sandya Sri, using a towel inside their flat.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Rao had allegedly decided to end his own life and, prior to that, killed his wife. Police officials said that no other major motive has emerged so far, and the act appears to have been premeditated. However, the exact circumstances leading to the incident are still under investigation. A case of murder has been registered, and the accused has been taken into custody. **BMB**

Gone gold: Trouble for temple committee member

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Halasuru Police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) against a member of the Sri Someshwara Temple Management Committee under Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. The FIR was registered based on a complaint lodged by Manjula, a resident of Halasuru.

Section 318(4) deals with cases of cheating and dishonestly inducing the delivery of property. Manjula complained that Shivadevabalan cheated her by not honouring his commitment to return the jewellery she had given him.

According to the FIR, BR Chandran, a resident of Halasuru, also submitted a complaint to the Executive Officer of Sri Someshwara Temple, stating that Shivadevabalan had collected money from devotees and organised religious programmes illegally in the name of the temple. Chandran demanded that suitable action be taken against him.

Based on this complaint, the Executive Officer issued a show-cause notice to Shivadevabalan on February 4, directing him to provide an explanation within seven days of receiving the notice. "If you fail to do so, I will report the matter to higher authorities for action as per the law," the notice stated.

The FIR further stated that Manjula joined a dance class organised by Shivadevabalan in 2021 and had known him since then. She alleged that on June 19, 2024, he approached her stating that his father had to undergo cardiac surgery and requested a loan of Rs 2,50,000. She gave him gold jewellery to mortgage in order to raise the amount. He promised to return the jewellery within a month but failed to do so even after 18 months.

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, Manjula said she was compelled to lodge a complaint with Halasuru Police, highlighting that she was in distress as the accused had stopped attending her phone calls over the past six months.

Shivadevabalan said that accepting jewellery from Manjula was a personal matter and had nothing to do with his position at Sri Someshwara Temple.

Woman claims management committee member of temple borrowed gold jewellery from her under pretext of father's medical treatment but failed to return it despite months passing by

"Some people with vested interests have been trying to malign my name as I belong to the Scheduled Caste. I am also planning to meet the Police Commissioner to lodge a complaint against them. I have already returned half of the jewellery to Halasuru Police and will return the remaining jewellery soon," he said.

Earlier, a complaint had also been filed against Shivadevabalan for allegedly attending a priest's birthday celebration at Subramanya Temple. Bangalore Mirror published the story, titled 'Furore over birthday bash inside temple', on October 8, 2025.

Don't exclude: State govt urged to oppose voter role revision

My Vote My Right collective calls SIR threat to Constitutional safeguards; says process is arbitrary and puts vulnerable communities at risk of exclusion

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A coalition of activists and civil society organisations under the banner "My Vote, My Right" on Wednesday called on the Karnataka government to formally oppose the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that the process could lead to large-scale exclusion of vulnerable communities from voting lists.

At a press conference, members of the collective criticised both the design and implementation of the SIR exercise, claiming that it has raised concerns in several states and union territories where it has been rolled out. They also flagged issues with the ongoing voter roll mapping exercise in Karnataka.

Clifton D'Rozario, National Vice President of the All India Central Council of Trade Unions, argued that the revision process is arbitrary and inconsistently implemented across states. Referring to developments elsewhere, he said authorities had introduced new classifications to flag voter records based on software-detected discrepancies such as spelling variations or mismatched ages across documents.

"They are making it as difficult as possible for people to get on the electoral rolls," he said.

PROTECT THE RIGHT TO UNIVERSAL ADULT FRANCHISE!
SAY NO TO S.I.R.!
Congress Karnataka!
PROTECT THE RIGHT TO UNIVERSAL ADULT FRANCHISE!
SAY NO TO S.I.R.!

Civil society groups stage a protest rally against Election Commission of India's SIR at Freedom Park in this file photo

> **"It is high time that the Congress party speaks on behalf of the people who voted them to power. How can the Chief Minister say that they refuse to politicise the SIR?**
>
> –Mavalli Shankar, State Convenor, Dalit Sangharsha Samiti

Activist and writer Sripad Bhat questioned the documentation requirements under the SIR framework. He contended that the process appears structured in a manner that could result in widespread exclusion. "How many people will have any of the 11 documents they have enlisted? How are migrant workers and the poor going to search for their names in the 2002 list that has been uploaded to the ECI websites?" he asked.

Mavalli Shankar, State Convenor of the Dalit Sangharsha Samiti – Ambedkarvada, described the SIR as a threat to constitutional safeguards. "It is nothing but electoral genocide," he said, adding that the ruling Congress government in Karnataka must take a clear stand. "It is high time that the Congress party speaks on behalf of the people who voted them to power. How can the Chief Minister say that they refuse to politicise the SIR?"

Women's rights activist Mamatha Yajaman of Naaveddu Nilladidre expressed concern that women, especially those who relocate after marriage, could face difficulties under the mapping exercise. "The SIR blatantly threatens the constitutional guarantee of equality to women and must be strongly opposed."

Nisha Gulur from the Movement for Gender and Sexual Pluralism said that many in the transgender ommunity may struggle to produce documentation or trace earlier records due to displacement from families.Khaleelullah, a member of the collective, also pointed to logistical challenges arising from changes in polling booths, assembly constituencies and administrative boundaries, including transitions from panchayats to municipalities.

Fraser Town residents protect peaceful Ramzan atmosphere

Residents submit memorandum seeking continued ban on Ramzan food mela, prioritising safety, hygiene, pedestrian access, peaceful neighbourhood environment for all

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Fraser Town have once again submitted a memorandum to law enforcement authorities and elected representatives demanding continuation of the ban on the annual food mela held during Ramzan. The move follows repeated complaints from residents who said the mela caused inconvenience, hygiene issues, and obstruction of public spaces. Residents said they are not against existing eateries and hotels organising special Ramzan food events within their own premises, but opposed stalls set up by outsiders on footpaths and roads. They pointed out that similar objections were raised in 2024 and 2025, after which authorities prevented such encroachments. Residents said the restrictions helped restore normal movement and improved cleanliness in the locality.

Police instructed keep vigil on unauthorised eateries during Ramzan period

Members of the Fraser Town Residents' Welfare Association said they had written to their MLA AC Srinivasa and local police inspectors of law and order and traffic, requesting strict action to prevent encroachment of roads and footpaths during Ramzan. "We appeal to the authorities not to allow outsiders to organise food melas on footpaths and roads, which cause inconvenience to pedestrians, motorists, and residents," said Khaiser Ahmed, General Secretary of the association.

In a separate letter addressed to the Police Inspector of Pulakeshinagar, the association expressed concern over recurring illegal activities during Ramzan in Fraser Town. The letter, signed by Interim President Nalini Iyer, stated that with police support, residents were able to ensure the mela did not take place in the past two years. It added that more than 2,500 residents had signed a petition opposing the mela, and the association was prepared to mobilise even more support if necessary.

> **"I want to give importance to residents' welfare. There will be no food mela as the residents do not want it**
>
> –AC Srinivasa, Pulakeshinagar MLA

The association further alleged that large gatherings had led to increased drug peddling and illegal gambling activities, causing disturbance and affecting residents' sense of safety.

Responding to the concerns, Pulakeshinagar MLA AC Srinivasa said he would prioritise residents' welfare and would not encourage food melas during Ramzan. He said he had instructed police to maintain strict vigil and prevent unauthorised roadside eateries. He added that ensuring free movement on footpaths and maintaining peace and wellbeing of residents was more important. He emphasised that authorities would continue coordinating with residents and police to ensure compliance.

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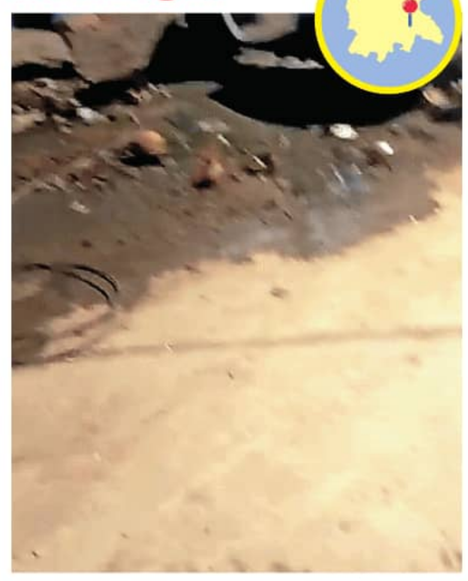
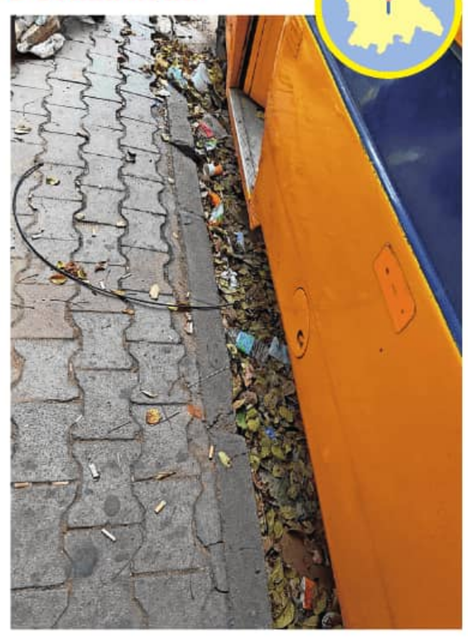
Sewage overflow
Koramangala



Residents report frequent sewage overflows and a foul stench at 10th Main, ST Bed Layout, causing severe inconvenience and health concerns.

Garbage pile
D'souza Road



Uncleared dried leaves and mixed waste, along with a garbage trolley obstructing the footpath on D'Souza Road, Ward 111, are causing inconvenience to pedestrians.

Lake pollution
Kakolu Lake

Plastic waste dumped near Kakolu Lake has raised concern among locals over environmental damage and poor waste management in the area.

Smart cabin, smarter kids, brighter futures

Portable classroom tackles early-learning crisis among migrant families in South Bengaluru's underserved cluster

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Nutritious meals, multilingual lessons and health linkages empower over forty-six young children lacking access to formal schooling systems

A portable cabin–based smart classroom has been launched at the Chikkanayakanahalli migrant informal settlement in South Bengaluru to address the critical early childhood needs of migrant children. The settlement is home to families from states such as Assam, West Bengal and Odisha, with most parents engaged in the construction sector and the gig economy, and some working in nearby apartment complexes. Mothers usually stay at home to care for their children or take up work as domestic workers in nearby apartments.

Many children in the settlement are not enrolled in schools or anganwadis due to distance, lack of documentation and language barriers. As a result, older siblings are often forced to care for younger children, while many grow up without access to nutritious meals, healthcare or stimulating learning environments. To bridge these gaps, Sampark's portable cabin smart classroom functions as a centre for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). The ECCE centre will provide holistic support to more than 46 migrant children between the ages of six months and six years.

Children engage in multilingual, play-based learning inside a portable classroom in South Bengaluru's informal settlement Inset: Portable smart classroom brings early learning and nutrition to migrant children in Chikkanayakanahalli

The cabin is spacious enough to accommodate up to 50 children. The centre provides daily nutritious meals to meet dietary and energy needs, supporting physical growth, immunity, overall health and improved learning outcomes. The smart classroom offers early years education through age-appropriate and engaging methods. With the support of a smart board, children receive hands-on learning in letters and numbers, along with storytelling, rhymes, outdoor play, play-based learning, creative arts and crafts, puzzles and memory-building games.

Children are taught in multiple languages, including Kannada, Hindi and English, enabling them to learn more effectively and become school-ready. Those above six years of age who are school-ready are enrolled in the nearest government school so they can continue their education in a formal setting.

After school, children are also supported with their learning materials, ensuring they continue their education and are not forced to drop out due to difficulties in coping with the system.

Children enrolled at the ECCE centre are formally linked to the nearest Primary Health Centres (PHCs), improving access to quality healthcare and strengthening their visibility within public systems. The centre regularly organises paediatric health camps to ensure early detection and timely treatment of illnesses and developmental concerns.

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Dayananda Sagar University (DSU), established under Karnataka Act No. 20 of 2013, is a part of Dayananda Sagar Institutions (DSI) which has a student strength of about 32,000. DSU has established its new innovation campus over sprawling 130 acres off Kanakapura Road near Harohalli. It has Nine schools of study in Medicine, Engineering, Health Sciences, Commerce & Management, Basic & Applied Sciences, Computer Applications, Law, Design & Digital Transmedia, Arts and Humanities. The University offers state-of-the-art infrastructure, excellent academic ambience for professional growth and encouragement to entrepreneurship, innovation as well as incubation.

As a fitting tribute to Dr. Chandramma Dayananda Sagar, a legend and the first Indian lady doctor to have obtained triple F.R.C.S, DSU has established **"Dr.CHANDRAMMA DAYANANDA SAGAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH"** a medical college recognized u/s 10a of IMC Act 1956 for 200 MBBS and PG seats with a 1350 bed Hospital at Dayananda Sagar University Campus, located 30 kms away from Bangalore on NH-209, Kanakapura Road, Harohalli, Bengaluru South Disrict. The Institute mission is to educate the future leaders in the Medical Profession, with a strong foundation and motivation to serve humanity.

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- ENT
- Anatomy
- Physiology
- Biochemistry
- Pharmacology
- Pathology
- Microbiology
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Court refuses to manage Bengaluru traffic

The Karnataka High Court has declined to issue directions on a public interest litigation seeking judicial intervention to resolve the chronic traffic congestion in Bengaluru, observing that such issues fall within the policy domain of the State government and not the judiciary.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha disposed of the petition, reiterating that courts cannot step into the shoes of administrators or urban planners and must respect the constitutional boundaries between institutions.

During the hearing, the Bench underscored the principle of separation of powers, with the Chief Justice remarking that decisions relating to infrastructure development, traffic planning, and urban mobility are matters of executive policy and technical expertise.

The court said it could not assume the role of policymakers or direct how resources should be allocated, noting that such interventions could blur institutional lines and undermine administrative accountability.

The petition was filed by advocate AV Amarnath, who had sought directions to the State to undertake a comprehensive and scientific study into the causes of worsening traffic congestion across the city.

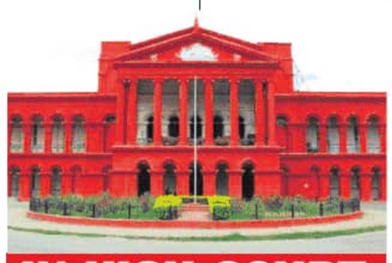
He argued that rapid urban expansion, rising vehicle numbers, and mounting pressure on existing infrastructure were contributing to longer commute times, frequent gridlocks, and a declining quality of life for residents.

Among the suggestions placed before the court was the formation of an expert committee to examine structural and administrative gaps in traffic regulation and infrastructure planning and to recommend both immediate and long-term measures.

The plea also highlighted the broader consequences of persistent congestion, including increased fuel consumption, worsening air quality, economic losses, and higher stress levels among daily commuters.

However, the Bench expressed reservations about issuing binding directions, observing that traffic regulation and infrastructure expansion involve complex policy choices, budgetary considerations, and specialised expertise within the executive's domain.

The judges noted that the government had already acknowledged the seriousness of the situation and was pursuing multiple initiatives aimed at easing congestion and improving mobility.



The court also referred to public statements by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who has outlined infrastructure projects and policy measures intended to address the city's mounting traffic challenges.

Observing that the administration was conscious of the gravity of the issue, the Bench said there was no justification for judicial interference at this stage.

While declining to issue directions, the court expressed hope that authorities would act proactively to address the problem and improve commuting conditions for residents.

The order leaves responsibility to authorities to improve mobility citywide across Bengaluru effectively.

Wedding hall owner off hook in child marriage case

The Kalaburagi bench of the Karnataka High Court has set aside criminal proceedings initiated against the owner of a wedding hall where the marriage of a minor girl was allegedly conducted, observing that there is no fixed legal requirement for a hall owner to verify the age of a bride and groom before renting out the premises.

Justice Rajesh Rai K, while allowing the petition, noted that the only allegation against the petitioner was that he owned Hussain Hall in Vijayapura, the venue where the marriage between the minor girl and accused No.1 had taken place. The court recorded that the hall had been booked by the parents of the couple through the petitioner's employees, and there was nothing on record to show that the owner had any role beyond renting out the premises.

The judge observed that there is no hard and fast rule requiring a marriage hall owner to verify age proof of the bride and groom before renting out a wedding hall. In the absence of any material indicating knowledge or intent on the part of the petitioner, criminal liability could not be fastened on him, the court said.

"In such circumstances, it cannot be said that the petitioner had knowledge or intention along with the other accused persons to perform the marriage of the minor victim with accused No.1. Hence, the offences charge-sheeted against the petitioner do not attract against him," the order stated.

The case arose from a complaint lodged by the Supervisor of the Women and Child Development Department at Shivananda Nagar. According to the complaint, a girl aged about 17 years and eight months, who was pregnant, delivered a child at a Primary Health Centre on June 22, 2024. The officer sought action against those allegedly responsible for facilitating the minor's marriage, including the man who married her.

Following the complaint, police registered a case against six individuals under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act. The petitioner, arrayed as accused No.6, was identified as the owner of Hussain Palace, where the wedding ceremony had been conducted.

Challenging the Magistrate court's decision to take cognisance of the offences against him, the hall owner approached the High Court. His counsel argued that he was merely the owner of the premises and had no knowledge of the girl's age. The booking had been made by the parents through the hall staff, and there was nothing to suggest that the owner was aware that the bride was a minor, it was contended.

Agreeing with the submission, the High Court emphasised that criminal proceedings should not be allowed to continue in the absence of prima facie material. The court noted that subjecting an individual to prosecution based on a frivolous or vexatious complaint could have serious consequences, including reputational harm.

Court quashed proceedings, saying no case existed; liability needs evidence, child marriage prevention rests with families and authorities.

Animals fear hunters more than tourists: Study

A new study by the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), published in Ecology Letters, finds that wild animals do not always perceive humans as equally threatening, adjusting their behaviour depending on the type of human interaction. Led by PhD student Shawn D'Souza, the research analysed behavioural changes across species and ecosystems, focusing on foraging, vigilance, and movement patterns to understand how animals respond to human presence.

The study found strong evidence that animals perceive lethal humans, such as hunters and fishers, as significant threats. In areas where such interactions occur, animals tend to be more vigilant and spend less time foraging. In contrast, responses to non-lethal humans like tourists or researchers were weaker and more variable. Interestingly, human structures such as roads and settlements sometimes reduced vigilance, with certain areas functioning as perceived refuges because predators often avoid human activity. Cleared vegetation along roads can also create attractive grazing spaces for smaller animals.

Researchers chose the behavioural parameters because they reflect trade-offs animals face in managing risk, affecting survival and reproduction. The findings suggest animals adjust behaviour based on the intensity and predictability of threats, remaining cautious when danger is consistent and relaxing when risks are lower.

The study highlights broader ecological implications, noting that behavioural shifts can influence grazing, predation, and ecosystem balance.
Co-author Kartik Shanker added that understanding fear responses could help manage human-wildlife conflict, while researchers emphasised the need for long-term studies to assess whether animals are adapting behaviourally or evolving over time. **–BMB**

Bandipur, Nagarhole safaris resume with limits

Safaris in Karnataka's Bandipur and Nagarahole Tiger Reserves will resume in a phased manner, Forest Minister Eshwar Khadre announced on Wednesday, responding to sustained pressure from the tourism sector. The decision follows a report submitted by a technical committee constituted by the State government.

Safari operations will restart with reduced trips, vehicles, and timings. In Bandipur, where safaris earlier ran for eight hours before being suspended in November 2025, the duration has now been cut to five hours. In Nagarahole, safaris will be permitted for four hours in the first phase. The activities had been halted due to a surge in human-wildlife conflict cases, particularly in conflict-prone zones.

Minister addresses monitoring and patrol deployment

The phased reopening was approved during the 20th meeting of the Karnataka Wildlife Board, which recommended restarting safaris based on scientific assessment. The committee included officials from the Karnataka Forest Department, scientists from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), and researchers from the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM).

Bandipur has 80 sq km, about 8 percent of its 1,036 sq km area designated as a tourism zone, while Nagarahole's eco-tourism zone covers 63 sq km of its 844 sq km area.

The Minister directed that one-third of safari revenue be allocated for tribal welfare and conflict mitigation. He also mandated GPS and dashboard cameras in all safari vehicles within two months, while additional staff will strengthen fringe village patrolling. **–BMB**

Waste collection comes to halt in city

The Garden City is teetering on the edge of a trash crisis. As of Wednesday, waste collection across Bengaluru has ground to a halt as residents near the Bellahalli landfill blocked access, preventing 150 trucks from offloading refuse. The standoff, which began Monday, centres on a two-year delay in "village development funds", compensation promised to local communities for enduring the environmental and health hazards of the city's waste. Local residents near the site claim the government has reneged on commitments intended for.

The crisis escalated when attempts to reroute trucks to Doddaballapur were thwarted by local MLA Dheeraj Muniraju, who refused to accept the overflow. This prompted a response from Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. The DCM accused BJP leaders of "blackmailing" the government for constituency funds and warned that the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) would be invoked to keep the city.

In a warning to opposition leaders obstructing disposal sites in Mahadevapura and Doddaballapur, Shivakumar suggested that if landfills remain blocked, the city's trash might instead be delivered to the doorsteps of the protesting MLAs. While the government claims to be finalizing tenders for two new disposal sites, the future of Bengaluru's streets remains buried under the current deadlock. Bengalureans said that if the state government fails to break the impasse by Thursday, the volume of stranded waste is expected to create a severe public health emergency within the city centre. **–BMB**

BWSSB scales up recycled water supply

Bengaluru's push to reuse treated wastewater has accelerated significantly, with daily recycling rising from about 750 million litres per day (MLD) two years ago to nearly 1,000 MLD now. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), which currently supplies around 2,225 MLD of Cauvery water to the city from nearly 100 km away, estimates that 85–90% of this supply eventually becomes sewage. Of the 34 advanced sewage treatment plants in operation, about 1,348 MLD is being treated, with additional capacity planned.

A large share of the treated water, about 950 MLD, is being pumped to replenish 572 lakes across Bengaluru and neighbouring districts to recharge groundwater and support non-drinking needs. In Kolar district, 440 MLD has been earmarked to fill 415 lakes, with 145 covered in the first phase and 270 planned next. Chikkaballapur has been allocated 210 MLD for 65 lakes, while 220 MLD is being used to fill 19 lakes in Anekal taluk. Within Bengaluru, about 80 MLD is directed to 23 lakes. Officials say groundwater levels in some areas have improved by 350–400 feet from earlier depths of around 1,500 feet due to sustained lake replenishment.

BWSSB also expects to generate about 60 lakh per month, or nearly 5 crore annually, from selling treated water. Treatment follows National Green Tribunal norms, with a five-year monitoring study led by the Indian Institute of Science. Treated water is also supplied for industrial use, infrastructure projects, and facilities such as airports, industries, and construction works. **–BMB**

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Pattinson cash chronicles— Robert Pattinson, from Twilight to Batman, earns millions through films, endorsements, and an upcoming romance thriller

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Title unveiled

The team members of the Kannada movie Kavala were over the moon when Karunada Chakravarthy Dr Shiva Rajkumar unveiled the title of the film on the occasion of Maha Shivratri. If the poster is any indication, it seems Kavala belongs to the action and romance genres. The poster depicts the hero carrying a dagger in a hand tied with rudraksha beads. If all goes well, the muhurat function

of Kavala is scheduled to be held on February 26. Srijai is the director. Kavala will be his third film as a director.

"Kavala means alms, and I will narrate how the title – Kavala – is apt for this film on the muhurat function. I want to thank Dr Shiva Rajkumar for unveiling the film's poster," said director Srijai. Dr Shiva Rajkumar praised the poster, lauded Srijai's earlier films RX Suri and Bhaira Devi, and wished the team well. RX Suri starred Duniya Vijay, while Bhaira Devi, led by Radhika Kumaraswamy, released in 2024 in Kannada, Tamil and Telugu. The new film stars Sandeep Nagaraj, alongside Achyuth Kumar, Rangayana Raghu, Nazar, and Prakash Tumminad. Karunakaran handles cinematography, with music by KK Senthil Prasad.

Sarkar storm rising

Late Pravathamma Rajkumar's nephew Santosh Kumar is set to release his fourth film, Yuva Sarkar. He earlier directed Campus Kranthi, Students and Bindaas Googly. The campus-based drama's teaser was unveiled by Dr Shiva Rajkumar, who wished his cousin success.

The film's audio was unveiled by veteran producers SA Chinne Gowda and SA Govindaraj. They said that Santosh Kumar had made a film aimed at young audiences with a good message. "We wish him good luck," they added. Chinne Gowda and Govindaraj are brothers. The audio launch was graced by producers Ba Ma Harish, A Ganesh, and Madhavi.

Starring Veeren Keshav, Jahnavi, Keerthiraj, Shruthi Deshpande, Dharma Keerthiraj and Alefia, the film will release in Kannada, Hindi and Tamil.

The story follows a mother who raises her son on Gandhian ideals, only for him to turn into a Robin Hood-like figure, with the climax revealing why.

Shot in Chennai, Chikmagalur and Melukote, the film features five songs and four action sequences and is slated for a May or June release.

Jewels speak: Tamannaah's style secrets

Every piece reflects her mood, roots, and cinematic glamour

For Tamannaah Bhatia, jewellery isn't just an accessory — it's a form of self-expression, a reflection of mood, and a connection to her roots. Whether she's turning heads on the red carpet, stepping out for a casual day, or slipping into a role on screen, her jewels are always part of the story. "I've always felt that the right kind of jewellery can definitely add so much more glamour to any outfit," she says, adding, "It could be a casual outfit, a red carpet event, or a festive occasion, but the jewellery you wear always affects the way your outfit is interpreted. For me, it's been a very integral part of styling and getting ready."

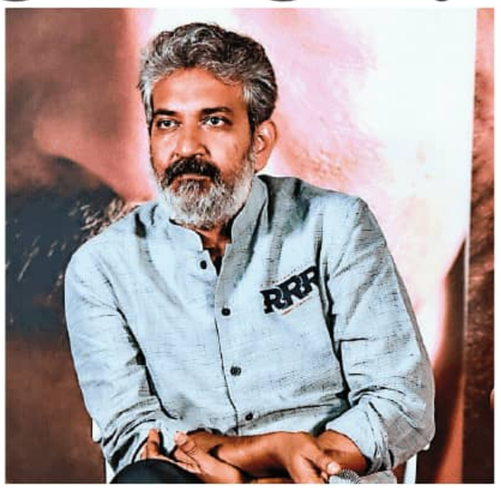
That passion, Tamannaah shares, runs in the family. "Fine jewellery has also been a part of my family; it has been my father's business. And right now, I'm creating so much of my own fine jewellery, and I love wearing the pieces I design and make. It really helps me create the right kind of looks for the clothes I wear. Since I have to wear so many different kinds of things, I always need that right kind of variety to be able to express myself differently," she explains. For the Jailer and Aranmanai 4 actor, jewellery is also deeply emotional — an extension of who she is in that moment. "What draws me to jewellery is that it makes it so much easier for me to express myself. Is it a casual day? Is it a glamorous day? Is it a day I feel minimalistic or maximalistic? It always says something about me."

Tamannaah's love for design feels more personal than ever. "All the fine jewellery I'm currently making for myself really helps me embody different kinds of looks effortlessly and keeps my glamour quotient high. Even on days when I'm dressed in track pants, I still want to look completely turned out and, for that, I always need my jewels. I love putting my earrings with my necklaces, and these are some of the things I've created as part of my collection," she concludes.

— ETimes

Desi stories, global glory

Acclaimed filmmaker SS Rajamouli is gearing up to make a splash at the worldwide box office with the release of his film Varanasi, slated for 2027. However, before the film can hit the big screens, the director, in a candid chat, opened up about his movie and the fan base he hopes to build, one film at a time.

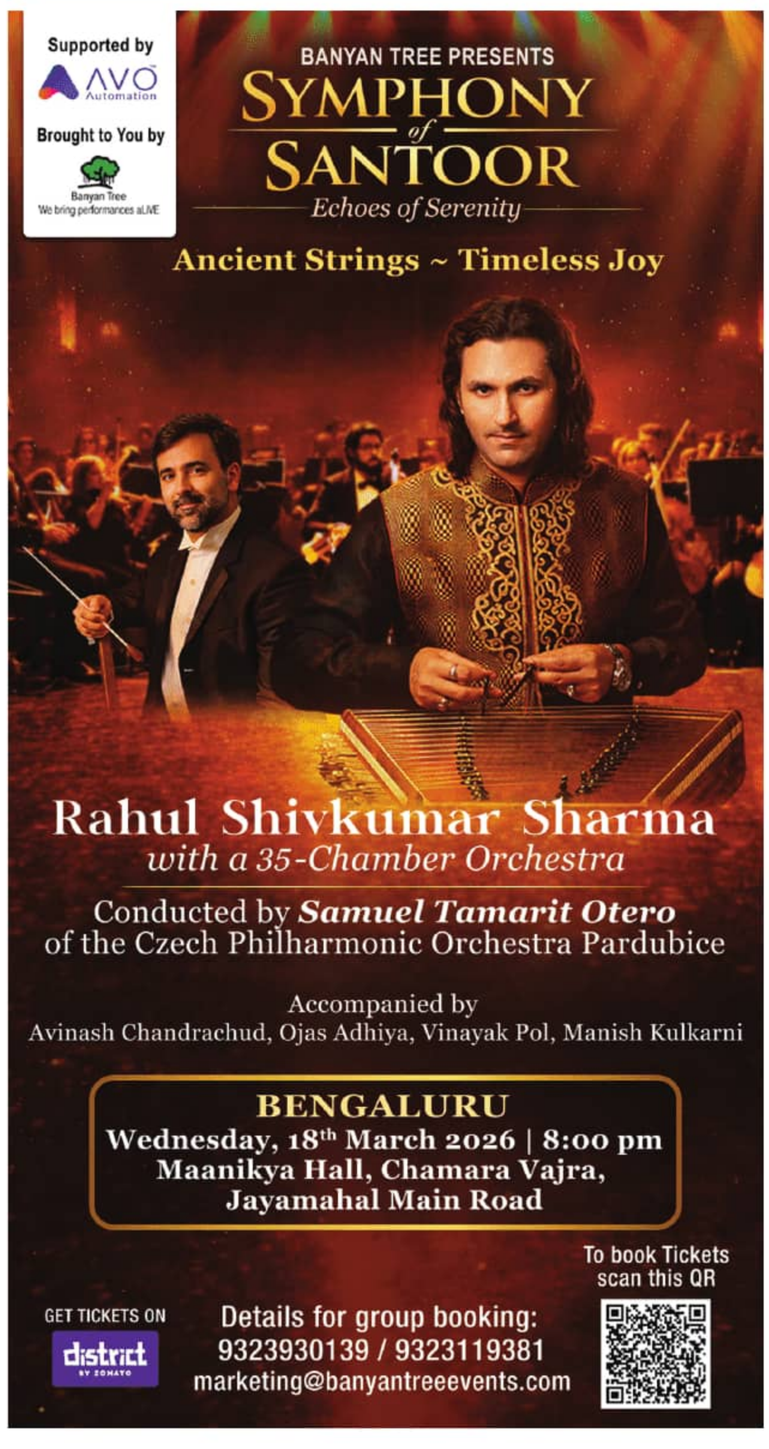


SS Rajamouli on wanting to build a fan base

Sharing his plans to cultivate a global and dedicated fan base for Indian films, Rajamouli told Fandango, "I want to have a good fan base for Indian cinema, like how you have for K-Pop or Japanese anime, which have a strong following across the world, not just in Korea and Japan, but globally."

The director hailed the Indian success of Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba The Movie: Infinity Castle, which earned over ₹66 crore and became 2025's fifth highest-grossing foreign film here. He said its full-house run proves global audiences are opening up — something he hopes for Indian cinema too. Reflecting on RRR (2022), Rajamouli added that sincere, universal emotions connect worldwide, though witnessing that success is different from simply believing in it.

— ETimes



2 recent crashes involving minors puts spotlight on speeding

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to media reports, within 48 hours prior to Monday, at least five separate accidents were reported across different cities. In Ahmedabad, a car driven by a student met with an accident, leaving several occupants injured. In Lucknow, a car carrying Class 12 students crashed, resulting in one student being declared dead while others sustained multiple injuries. In Vadodara, a 19-year-old allegedly rammed into a two-wheeler, leading to one fatality.

Highway horror

Traffic and infrastructure expert Professor MN Sreehari said that despite continuous warnings and awareness efforts, well-developed highways frequently encourage rash driving. He pointed out that good roads are designed to promote safe and comfortable travel, but many motorists wrongly perceive them as a chance to drive at high speeds, leading to more accidents. Highway accidents are often the result of a combination of human error, infrastructure gaps, and external conditions, he said.

According to data released by the Karnataka State Police under the Motor Vehicles Act, a total of 3,875 road accident cases were reported across the state in January 2026. These incidents resulted in injuries to 5,866 persons, while 1,024 people lost their lives.

Of the fatalities recorded during January, 356 occurred on National Highways. Similarly, out of 4,842 persons injured in road accidents, 1,660 sustained injuries on National Highways, which constitutes 34% of the total injured.

On State Highways, 274 fatal accident cases were reported, leading to 273 deaths. Meanwhile, on other category roads, 394 fatal cases were registered, resulting in 395 deaths. In total, 1,009 fatal accident cases were reported across Karnataka in January. This translates to an average of 33 fatal accidents per day. In addition, 2,866 non-fatal accident cases were recorded during the month, averaging about 92 non-fatal accidents per day.

Last year, nearly 3,680 fatal accidents were reported on National Highways, resulting in the deaths of 3,814 persons. On State Highways, 2,598 fatal accidents were recorded, in which 2,983 individuals lost their lives in 2025.

Steady increase in violations involving minors

During a press meet on Tuesday, Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh cited the recent Hoskote accident as a serious example of rising violations involving underage motorists. He said the Traffic Police will soon launch a special drive against minors found driving illegally.

He urged parents to ensure that only individuals holding a valid driving licence are allowed to operate vehicles.

"We are instructing, requesting and warning parents to strictly monitor their children. If there is a failure on their part, strict action will be taken and cases will be registered against both the minor and the parents," he said.

Highlighting the growing concern over reckless driving involving minors, the Commissioner noted that 95 cases were registered in 2023, which increased to 197 in 2024 and further surged to 414 cases in 2025. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy said that a special drive has been launched across Bengaluru to curb bike stunts and wheeling incidents. He said jurisdictional officers have been instructed to step up inspections and keep strict surveillance both on the ground and on social media platforms.

Referring to previous cases, he added that around 54 vulnerable stretches in the city have been identified, where special monitoring is being carried out to detect violations and initiate action against offenders.

Prep on to quench Bengaluru's thirst

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and the East Zone Rs 2.15 crore. The remaining allocation has been set aside for other identified localities and emergency works." The decision follows a high level review meeting held on February 10, chaired by BWSSB Chairman Dr Ram Prasath Manohar, along with senior officials and experts from the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

The meeting focused on learning from the severe 2024 summer crisis and putting preventive systems in place this year. "We do not expect a major shortage this time. However, we are fully prepared to respond if demand rises or groundwater levels dip in specific pockets," Dr Manohar said.

Tankers and storage

To support the 448 critical areas, BWSSB has strengthened its storage and tanker network. At present, 530 tanks are installed across the city. An additional 230 tanks will be set up in vulnerable neighbourhoods, taking the total to 760 units positioned strategically.

On the supply front, 221 tankers including Board owned and private vehicles have been readied. Of these, Cauvery mobile tankers will be deployed on priority, with private tankers used if necessary.

The Board has also procured 60 new tankers this year to enhance capacity. In addition, 21 tanker filling stations and 91 Cauvery Connect filling points have been kept operational. Water supply to 196 RO plants has been integrated into the summer plan. Around 47 infrastructure works have also been proposed to strengthen local distribution systems.

Groundwater monitoring

Groundwater remains a key concern. A 2024 study by the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru had flagged depletion in nearly 80 locations. In response, BWSSB began refilling lakes such as Jakkur, Yelahanka, Agara and Hulimavu with treated water to improve recharge. Officials say good rainfall last year improved groundwater levels by nearly three metres in several parts of the city.

Even so, BWSSB has commissioned IISc to conduct a fresh groundwater assessment this year. The updated report is expected within a week and will guide zone wise interventions.

Post the 2024 crisis, the Board had launched an aerator installation drive in public taps to curb water wastage. More than 15 lakh aerators have been installed so far, resulting in an estimated annual saving of water valued at around Rs 40 crore. Authorities plan to intensify this drive during the peak summer months.

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I, RAJ KUMAR, R/o No.108, MBR Shangrilla Apartments, B-Block, K S Town, Bangalore – 560060, have changed my name to RAJU KUNDALIA, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I,JASMINE.B, R/o.No-1858, 6th A main road,D block 2nd stage rajajinagar B'luru 560010 have changed my name to Jasmine.P for all purposes.

I, Vaishnavi Bichali D/o, Ramesh Bichali R/o No B406, 4th Floor, Vara Vasundhara Apts, Bharath Housing Society, Nps School Bsk, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru 560061have changed my name to Vaishnavi Bichali Acharya for all purposes.

I, Pushpawati Hiremath, W/o. Kumarswami Doddapujar, R/o. #102, Aishwaryam Greens, Nobel Residency Lyt, Yelenahalli (V), Begur (H), Blr-560076, have changed my name to PUSHPAWATI SADANAND HIREMATH vide affidavit Dt: 18/02/26 before Notary M. Rajendra, Blr.

I, MOHAMMED AMEENUDDEEN S/o. Mohammed Zainullabeddin R/a #107, 5th cross, P&T colony, Venkateshpuram, Arabic College Post, Bengaluru 560045 have changed my name to MOHAMMED AMEENUDDIN vide affidavit dated 16.2.2026 before notary M. Rajendra, Bangalore.

I, DEEPIKA B alias DEEPIKA BALASUBRAMANIAN, D/o BALASUBRAMANIAN, R/o Fortune Homes, T-5, Basapura Main Road, Electronic City, Bengaluru - 560100, have changed my name as DEEPIKA, vide affidavit dated 17.02.2026, sworn before notary Nijagunaradhya T.C, Bengaluru.

I, SHRIYANS R (New Name), S/o Ramesh. T, aged about 21 years, residing at No.6/1, 6th Cross, Amarajyothinagar, Near Shobha Hospital, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040 do hereby declare that my name is changed from SAMARTH (Old Name), SAMARTH R (Old Name) to SHRIYANS R (New Name) vide affidavit dated 17.02.2026 sworn before notary MK Devaki. Henceforth I will be referred to by name Shriyans R only.

I, Venkat Sugavanam, R/o 201 Vista Lagos Kempapura Main Road Bellandur Bengaluru 560037, have changed/added my daughter's name (minor) from NYRA to NYRA VENKAT.

I, CHANDRASHEKAR REDDY R/a#.10, 1st A Mn Rd, 13th Crs, Vignan Nagar, Malleshpalya, B'lore -75. Have changed to CHANDRASHEKAR REDDY K N, vide aff dtd: 05.02.2026 sworn before Notary Devraja E., B'lore.

I, BUDDA ASHISH KUMAR, residing at No. 16/2, Country Villas, Bannerghatta, Bengaluru- 560083, have changed my name to ASHISH M NAYAK, vide affidavit dated: 18/2/2026 Before Notary H.S. Sakalesh Aradhya Bangalore.

I, Jothi M, W/o Mothisingh, R/o No. A-148, GRC Brunda vana Apartment, ITI Layout, 3rd Phase, Nayandahalli Post, Bangalore, B B M P (South), District - 560039. I have changed my name from Jyoti Bala to Jothi M vide sworn before notary S. R. Thulasikrishna dated 16.02.2026

I, Samreen Taj W/o Imran Khan R/o No 624 9th Cross Arundathi Nagar Chandra Layout Bangalore 560039 have changed my name to Samrin Taj for all purposes.

I, Princy Agarwal W/o, Ritesh Tibrewal R/o D-802,ETA Gardens,Binny Mill Circle,9 Magadi Rd,B'luru 560023 have changed my name to Princy Tibrewal for all purposes.

I, YUNISAHMAD IBRAHIMSAB DALAYAT R/at # 101/83, 2nd Floor, Room 10, 10th Cross, Mallathahalli, BENGALURU-560056, have changed my name to YUNIS AHMAD DALAYAT for all purposes.

I, Shaikmuhammednayeem Abdulmunaf, S/o Abdul Munaf R/o No 34 2nd Main, 11th Cross SS Layout Subash Nagar Bangalore 560068 have changed my name to Shaikmuhammednayeem M for all purposes

PRIME PROPERTY
LAND FOR SALE IN COORG
55 Acres, mountainous, rain forest ambience, planted with coffee, clear title, suitable for resort / tourism project, 25 Kms from Madikeri, available for sale. Contact:
coorglandsale@gmail.com

Hardik Pandya, left, celebrates with captain Suryakumar Yadav the wicket of Netherlands' Michael Levitt in Ahmedabad, on Wednesday

DUBE, VARUN TAKE INDIA HOME

In the end, Netherlands fell short of India's 193 total by 17 runs

Varun Chakravarthy (3/14) returned with three wickets after Shivam Dube (66) shone in the first innings as India topped Group A with a 17-run victory over Netherlands in the T20 World Cup in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

After posting 193/6, India restricted the Dutch to 176/7 in 20 overs to record their fourth win in a row in the tournament.

Bas de Leede top scored with 33 as the Netherlands batters kept fighting till the end.

Earlier, Dube's 31-ball 66 took India to a daunting 193/6.

Abhishek Sharma fell for a third consecutive duck, while other batters, including Ishan Kishan (18), Tilak Varma (31) and Suryakumar Yadav (34) made key contributions.

Hardik Pandya (30) and Dube then put on 76 runs for the fifth wicket.

Aryan Dutt (2/19) was the pick among bowlers for the Dutch.

Dubious record

Indian opener Abhishek Sharma registered an unwanted record after he was dismissed for a three-ball duck during the match.

Netherlands spinner Aryan Dutt struck early, cleaning up Sharma in the opening over. This was Sharma's third consecutive duck in the ongoing tournament after registering ducks against the USA and Pakistan in India's earlier group A matches.

The left-handed batter is yet to open his account in the T20 World Cup.

With the latest dismissal, Sharma has registered five ducks in T20Is in 2026, putting him with some of the openers scoring the most ducks in a single calendar year in the shortest format. —Agencies

India 193/6 (20)

Netherlands 176/7 (20)

Shivam Dube celebrates his half-century

Today's matches

West Indies	V/S	Italy
11.00 am		
Sri Lanka	V/S	Zimbabwe
03.00 pm		
Afghanistan	V/S	Canada
07.00 pm		

SA in win-win situation

Brevis, bowlers make short work of UAE

Dewald Brevis warmed up nicely with some monstrous sixes as South Africa hardly broke sweat during a walk-in-the-park six-wicket victory over United Arab Emirates in their final group league fixture of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

Chasing a target of 123, the Proteas romped home in 13.1 overs with Aiden Markram smashing 28 off 11 balls to set the stage for young Brevis who also helped himself to a 36 off 25 balls.

Ryan Rickleton hit some lusty sixes to get 30 off 16 balls in an all-round effort.

With the big Super Eights match against India coming up on Sunday, South Africa needed Brevis to fire, and he did have a good session out there in the middle.

The pull off a bouncer sent down by wrong-footed left-arm seamer Muhammad Jawadullah was a treat for the eyes.

Brevis quickly went onto the backfoot and pulled it from above eyeline into the top tier of the square leg stand. When left-arm spinner Haider Ali tossed one outside the off-stump, Brevis thumped it over extra cover into the Hill B of the Feroz Shah Kotla stands.

The two shots were indicators that Brevis was in prime form. He then picked up a slower one from Mohammed Arfan to dispatch it into the cow corner as South Africa finished proceedings in a jiffy.

South Africa's Jason Smith, left, and Tristan Stubbs celebrate their team's win against UAE, at Arun Jaitley Stadium, in New Delhi

UAE 122/6 (20)

South Africa 123/4 (13.2)

Earlier, young Alishan Sharafu led a charmed life with double reprieves but Anrich Nortje, playing his first match of the tournament, bowled quick and straight to restrict UAE to 122 for 6 in stipulated 20 overs. With Lungi Ngidi and Marco Jansen rested before the India game in Ahmedabad on Sunday, Nortje (2/28 in 4 overs) and Corbin Bosch (3/12 in 4 overs) bowled short and quick consistently as the UAE batting unit never really looked in control of the situation. Although skipper Muhammad Waseem (22 off 12 balls) and Aryansh Sharma moved a bit from the line of quick deliveries and got a few boundaries in the process using the pace, it was left-arm spinner George Linde, who got the first breakthrough.

Waseem went to sweep a much fuller delivery and was left plumb in-front.

Once the powerplay got over, UAE batters, save Sharafu's attacking strokes, could never come to terms with the pace and bounce on offer. How UAE wilted could be gauged from the fact that they hit 10 boundaries in all, in which Sharafu and Waseem hit nine cumulatively. —PTI

Pakistan beat Namibia by 102 runs to qualify for Super 8

In an ICC Men's T20 World Cup clash, Pakistan defeated Namibia by 102 runs, securing their spot in the Super Eight stage of the tournament.

Batting first, Pakistan posted a total of 199/3, thanks to an unbeaten century from opener Sahibzada Farhan. Overcoming cramps, Farhan scored 100 off 58 balls*, hitting 11 fours and four sixes at a strike rate of 172, marking his first T20I century and only the second by a Pakistani batter in the Men's T20 World Cup.

It was not the most fluent start for Pakistan as they lost Saim Ayub for 14 in the sixth over, with Jack Brassell taking the wicket. However, Pakistan managed 47/1 in the powerplay.

Pakistan accelerated in the ninth over, scoring 22 runs off leg-spinner Willem Myburgh, with contributions from Salman Agha, who came down the track to hit a six straight down the ground, before Farhan hit two successive sixes.

There was a little wobble in the middle as captain Agha (38 off 23, with three fours and two sixes) and Khawaja Nafay (5, with one boundary) departed in quick succession. Namibia captain Gerhard Erasmus put the skids on the scoring rate with some smart bowling and sent back Agha and Nafay as Pakistan reached 118/3 in 14 overs.

Pakistan's Usman Tariq celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Namibia's JJ Smit at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo on Wednesday

Pakistan 199/3 (20)

Namibia 97 (17.3)

However, opener Farhan continued to press on and helped Pakistan reach a daunting 199. The right-handed batter finished at a 58-ball 100*, laced with 11 fours and four sixes at a strike rate of over 172. It was the first T20I hundred for him and only the second in the men's T20 World Cup by a Pakistani batter.

The right-hander joined former batter Ahmed Shehzad in the list of Pakistan batters to have a T20 World Cup to their names. Shehzad made 111* in 62 balls against Bangladesh in the ICC T20 World Cup back in 2014 at Mirpur.

Chasing 200, Left-arm pacer Salman Mirza broke the 32-run opening partnership after he removed Jan Frylinck (9 off 11 balls, with one four) during the fifth over. Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton got out on five as Namibia had to settle for 40/2 in powerplay after a fluent start.

Namibia's chase slipped from 40/2 to 49/4 after they lost two more quick wickets. During the seventh over, Mohammad Nawaz got the wicket of Louren Steenkamp (23 off 22 balls, with three fours and one six). In the very next over, captain Gerhard Erasmus got out for seven against Shadab Khan. —PTI

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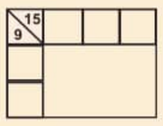
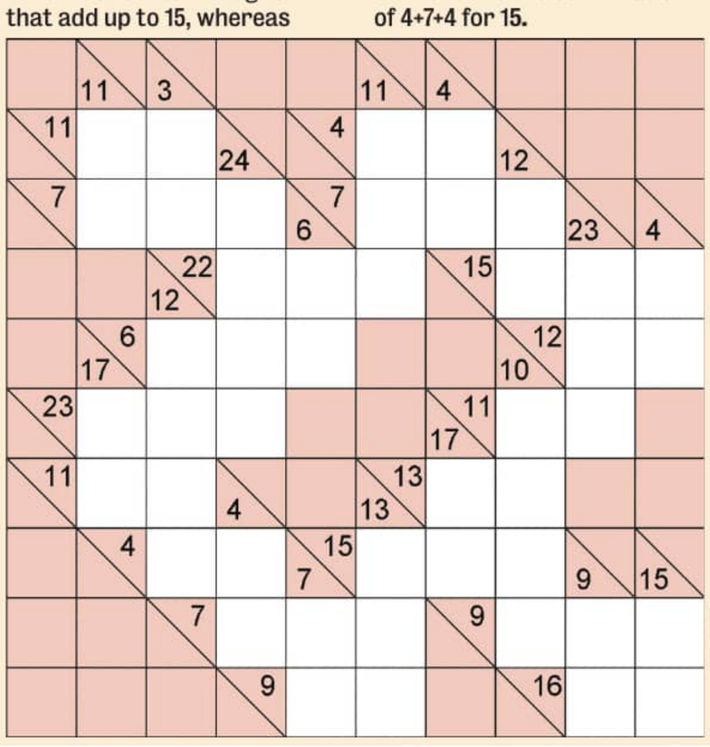
Kakuro

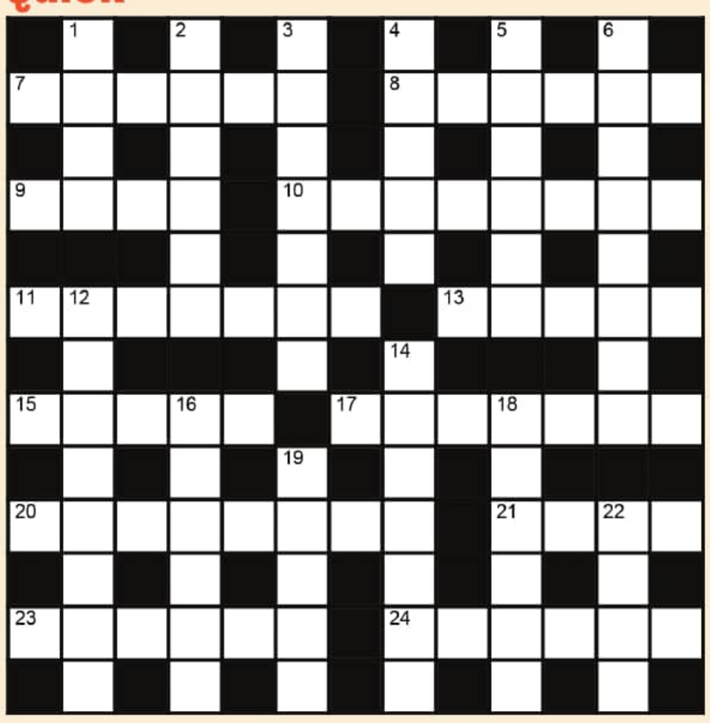
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Prosper, grow or blossom (6)
8 Stopped (6)
9 Unruly child (4)
10 Went on board (8)
11 Accompanies (7)
13 Frolic or caper (5)
15 Ankle bones (5)
17 Pharmacist (7)
20 Very popular garden flower (8)
21 Urban area (4)
23 Car protector (6)
24 Avaricious (6)

DOWN

1 India's desert region (4)
2 A small informal restaurant from France (6)
3 A keyboard instrument (7)
4 Diving gear (5)
5 Former Aussie batsman ___ Lehmann (6)
6 The science of heredity (8)
12 Made it airtight, should we say? (6,2)
14 Karnataka district known for its trekking trails (7)
16 Cooked langoustines (6)
18 One's forte (6)
19 Head ornament (5)
22 Ties the knot (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS D

XMAT HNTDC'I ZTRLMZT IUEI OT YT IUT YTDI, NCXV IUEI OT IZV NLZ YTDI.

Linemaro

I like your last name. Can I please have it?

Mindchow

Pleasure can be supported by an illusion; but happiness rests on truth

Joke of the day

I've searched all the parks in all the cities and found no statues of committees

Loop

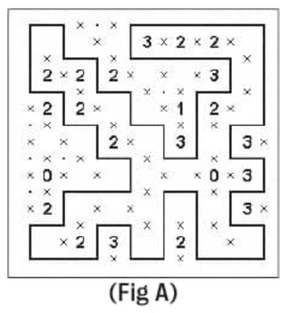
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

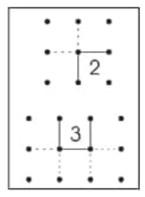
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

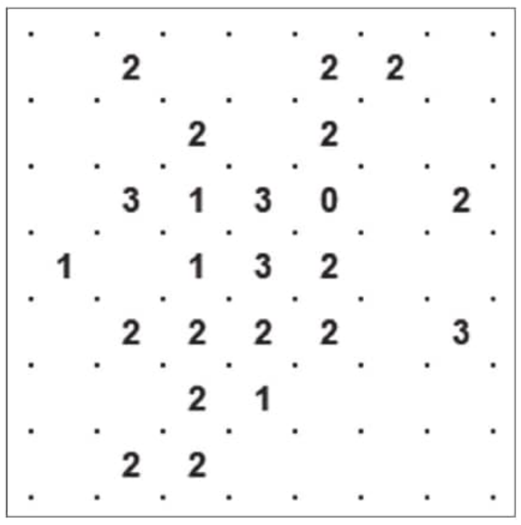
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



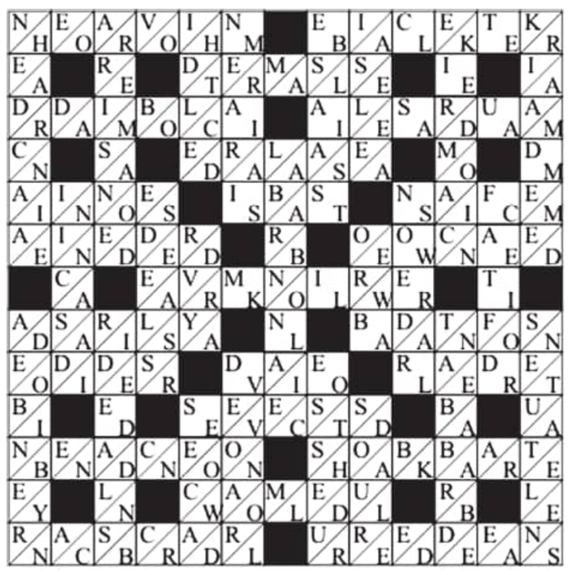
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6		M		
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Rag ma; 6 Muler; 7 Suing; 8 Tag on; 9 On Sow

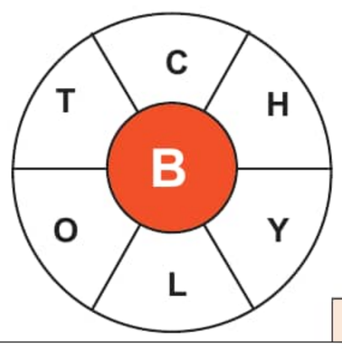
DOWN

1 Lugs T; 2 Wears; 3 Naomi; 4 On gum; 5 Orang

Mensapuzzle

Which number should appear at the bottom of this pile?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **06** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

4			8		5			1
		1				9		
	9		4		7		8	
2	3			4			1	6
7	1			2			3	8
	2		1		4		9	
		6				8		
9			3		6			5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 5

2 3 4 4

Medium = 10

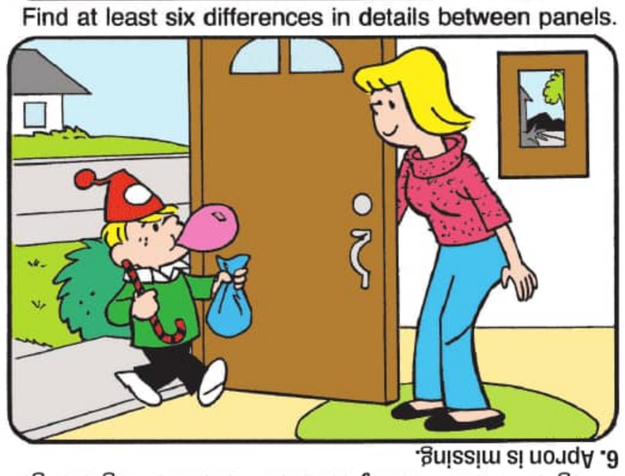
3 5 7 8

Hard = 15

2 3 4 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Bag is smaller. 3. Leg is moved. 4. Candy cane is different. 5. Rug is larger. 6. Apron is missing.

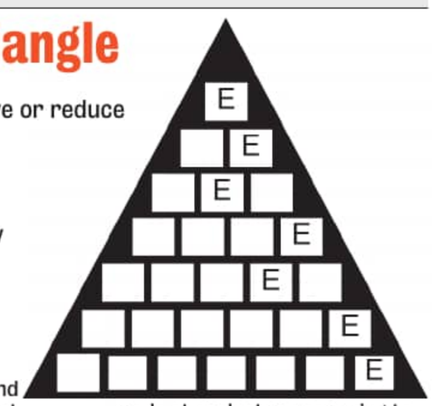
Riddler

The same five-letter word can be added to either the front or back, but not both, of the following words to create four new words. Can you determine what the five-letter word's identity is?

Key Wall Gem Washed

Alpha triangle

1 Second vowel
2 Prefix for remove or reduce
3 Roulette bet
4 Challenge
5 Was concerned
6 Gallery
7 Mockery, parody

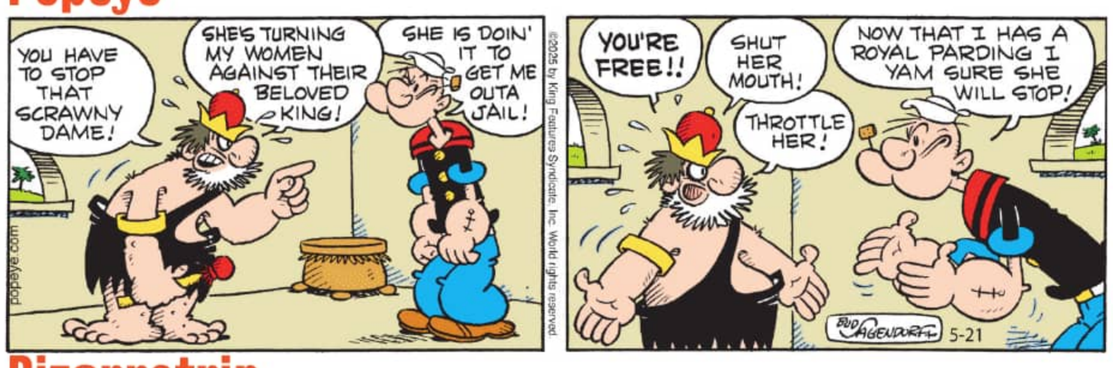


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

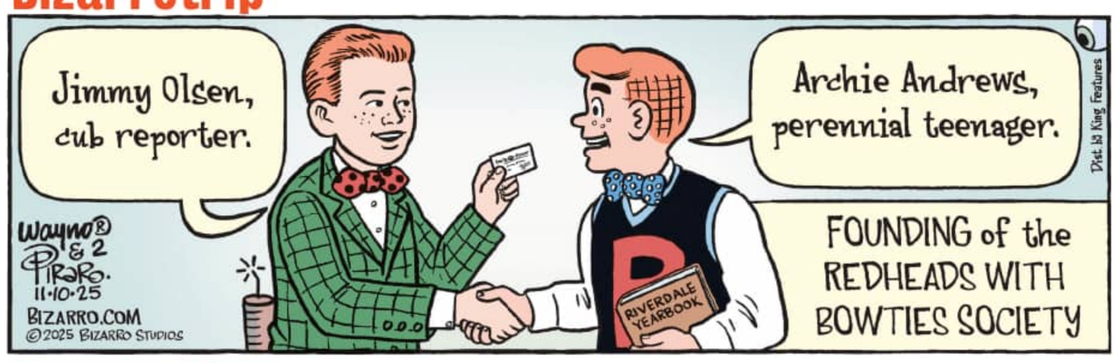
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

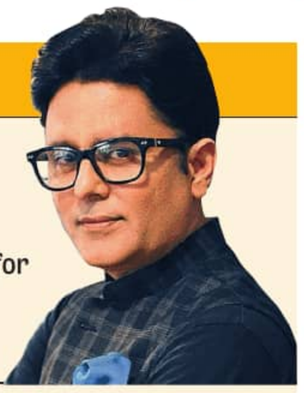
Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

With this day, your year becomes one of intuition. Career growth happens behind the scenes before emerging into the spotlight. Love is dreamy and romantic, especially during seaside travels. Home life is a peaceful sanctuary for your sensitive soul. Trust your creative instincts in all professional matters. Financial gains come through artistic or healing-centred work projects.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

New opportunities for growth appear today, so stay alert and ready to act. Your courage and enthusiasm will lead you toward exciting adventures and a very successful, bright future path.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Financial gains are likely today if you trust your practical instincts. By managing your resources wisely, you are building a secure foundation that will support your long-term goals and dreams.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Clear communication helps you build strong connections with others today. Sharing your thoughts and feelings openly will lead to deeper understanding and a sense of harmony in all your relationships.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Focus on creating a peaceful home environment today. Small improvements to your living space will enhance your mood and provide a comforting sanctuary where you can truly relax and recharge.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Your natural charisma attracts helpful people who are eager to support your visions. Use your influence for good, and you will find that your leadership leads to many positive changes.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Dedication to your work pays off today with recognition from your superiors. Your hard work and attention to detail are truly valued, paving the way for future career advancement and.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Balance and grace help you navigate today's social interactions with ease. Your ability to create harmony ensures that you are surrounded by supportive people who truly appreciate your kind spirit.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Your inner strength allows you to overcome any obstacles today. By staying focused and determined, you will achieve your goals and emerge from challenges stronger and more confident than ever.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

A sense of adventure leads you to exciting new places today. Embrace the unknown with an open heart, and you will find that your curiosity results in many wonderful life.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Practical planning ensures your long-term success today. By focusing on your goals and staying organized, you are building a solid foundation that will support your future growth and personal prosperity.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

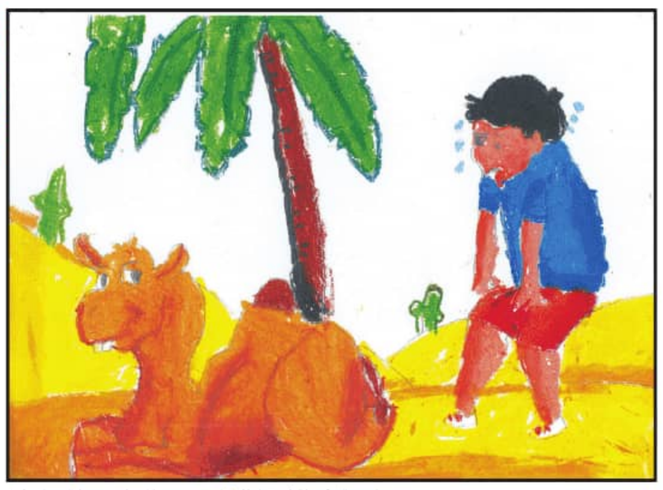
Your unique vision inspires those around you today. Share your innovative ideas with confidence, as your original perspective has the power to lead to exciting opportunities and a very successful.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Deep intuition guides you toward meaningful connections today. Trust your heart and allow your compassionate nature to shine, as your kindness creates a ripple effect of love and happiness everywhere.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Advika Bharath, 7 years, Delhi Public School

Nayomi, 7 years, Good Samaritan Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

(555/1000)÷(55/10)=
(111/100)÷(11/1)=
111÷1100=
0.100909

BULL'S EYE

blot, blotch, BLOTCHY, bolt, botch, both

STRIKE OUT

H	E	R	O	I	N	■	B	I	C	K	E	R	■	■
E	■	E	■	D	E	A	L	■	I	■	I	■	■	■
R	A	M	B	L	A	■	A	L	A	R	U	M	■	■
N	■	A	■	E	R	A	S	E	■	M	■	■	■	■
I	N	N	S	■	S	A	T	■	S	A	F	E	■	■
A	I	D	E	D	■	R	■	O	W	N	E	D	■	■
■	C	■	A	R	M	O	I	R	E	■	T	■	■	■
D	A	I	L	Y	■	N	■	B	A	T	O	N	■	■
O	D	D	S	■	V	I	E	■	R	A	R	E	■	■
B	■	E	■	S	E	C	T	S	■	B	■	A	■	■
B	E	A	C	O	N	■	H	O	B	A	R	T	■	■
E	■	L	■	C	A	M	E	L	■	R	■	E	■	■
R	A	S	C	A	L	■	R	E	D	D	E	N	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

42. As you go down, double the previous number and subtract 10.

QUOTE UNCODE

Life doesn't require that we be the best, only that we try our best.

SUDOKU

9	4	7	3	8	6	1	2	5
1	5	6	9	7	2	8	4	3
3	2	8	1	5	4	6	9	7
7	1	5	6	2	9	4	3	8
8	6	4	7	3	1	2	5	9
2	3	9	5	4	8	7	1	6
6	9	3	4	1	7	5	8	2
5	8	1	2	6	3	9	7	4
4	7	2	8	9	5	3	6	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE

E, DE, Red, Dare, Cared, Arcade, Charade.

GO FIGURE

Easy
3 + 2 − 4 + 4 = 5
Medium
7 + 8 / 3 + 5 = 10
Hard
3 x 4 x 2 − 9 = 15

LOOP

KAKURO

RIDDLER

The word you need is Stone. Keystone, Stonewall, Gemstone, Stonewashed

FAST FIVE

G	R	A	M	A
L	E	M	U	R
U	S	I	N	G
T	A	N	G	O
S	W	O	O	N

Volume No 19, Issue No 036 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore–560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru–560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon–responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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HAKUHODO.LYNC/2026

SCAN TO KNOW MORE

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*T&C apply. ^Scheme Offer valid till 28th Feb 2026 only & may vary based on models and other parameters. Digitally created visual. Picture of vehicle was not taken while driving. The Aero Edition kit is an accessory package to be fitted by authorized dealers based on customer preference and at additional cost.

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